



Pest Management Program

Directory of Program Elements

PS-1	Pesticide Usage Surveys in Selected Watersheds	86
PS-2	Puget Sound Pest Management Program	86

Problem Definition

Pesticides from home, forest, agricultural or road-way use can contaminate streams, lakes, wetlands, groundwater and ultimately Puget Sound. Homeowners account for approximately 20 percent of all pesticide use in the Puget Sound region. Unlike other pesticide users, household users are not trained in proper application procedures or in diagnosing whether a particular pesticide is needed.

Urban and suburban use of pesticides often occurs directly adjacent to storm drains, ditches, streams and lakes. Pesticides applied excessively or improperly can flow or leach into local waterways or seep into groundwater. Although pesticides are generally designed to be toxic to certain targeted organisms, they are sometimes toxic to other organisms, such as fish and other aquatic life in streams and lakes receiving waters from polluted runoff.

Institutional Framework

The major regulatory and enforcement authority for pesticide use rests with the state Department of

Agriculture. The department is responsible for training and licensing commercial pesticide applicators. The state Department of Ecology has authority for pesticide waste disposal and targets commercial and public entities with an active education and compliance program on pesticide waste management. The Washington State University (WSU) research faculty and the WSU Cooperative Extension conduct the majority of research, training and education programs. These programs have traditionally targeted commercial agricultural and forestry pesticide users. In addition, some local governments and utilities have initiated integrated pest management programs for roadside and utility rights-of-way.

As we become more aware of the extent of pesticide use in homes, it becomes increasingly apparent that it poses a major risk to water quality. The *Puget Sound Management Plan* calls for learning more about the patterns and extent of local pesticide use and developing comprehensive educational efforts to inform all users—both commercial and non-commercial—of existing alternatives to pesticides, as well as proper application and disposal methods. This educational effort needs to include integrated pest management—which means a

What does “shall” mean?

The Action Team has determined that the actions in this plan are needed to protect and restore Puget Sound. Consistent with the importance of these actions, this plan says that appropriate implementers “shall” perform the actions. However, implementation of many of these actions is a long-term process. The Action Team’s work plans will identify the actions that need to be taken each biennium to implement this management plan. Implementation of actions in the work plans is subject to the availability of funds and public input into the decision-making processes of implementing entities. When an action is included in a biennial work plan, the Action Team expects that it will be implemented in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Puget Sound management plan, in accordance with Chapter 90.71 RCW.

reduction in the use of pesticides—as alternative pest management approaches are implemented.

Program Goal

To effectively manage pests without harming water quality.

Program Strategy

The strategy for achieving this goal is to:

- a. Develop a watershed-based analysis of pesticide use.
- b. Develop and implement a program on pest management to research, promote and educate about pest management practices that ensure the greatest protection of water quality.

PS-1. Pesticide Usage Surveys in Selected Watersheds

Washington State University (WSU) Cooperative Extension shall act as the lead to design pilot pesticide-usage surveys for selected watersheds in the Puget Sound basin. WSU Cooperative Extension shall include appropriate agencies, scientists and local governments in designing and conducting the surveys. The surveys should define spatial and temporal usage patterns, focus specifically on pesticides of concern in the watershed, include information from all major users including both homeowners and commercial growers, and identify storage and disposal practices.

Target Dates for PS-1: WSU Cooperative Extension and the Department of Agriculture shall hire staff to design pilot pesticide-usage surveys for selected watersheds in the Puget Sound basin as funding becomes available.

PS-2. Puget Sound Pest Management Program

Several state agencies and universities are required by law to implement integrated pest management practices (RCW 17.15.020). This includes the departments of Agriculture, Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Transportation, and Natural Resources; the State Parks and Recreation Commission; WSU and the University of Washington. These agencies are required to participate on an interagency pest man-

agement coordinating committee and to report on their activities every two years. The Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources of WSU is to include research on integrated pest management.

WSU Cooperative Extension shall act as the lead to work with the Puget Sound Action Team, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Ecology, to find funding for and to establish a Puget Sound pest management program. WSU Cooperative Extension will design and implement program activities with an advisory group consisting of representatives from appropriate agencies, local governments, nonprofit organizations, business and industry groups, and educational and media groups. The program will work through existing institutions and groups to conduct research, work on a pesticide-use database, provide education on integrated and targeted pest-management and promote conservative use of pesticides and the use of alternatives to pesticides. Targeted audiences for educational activities shall include home users, commercial users, local government staff, and retailers of pest management products.

WSU Cooperative Extension shall help develop or conduct collaborative demonstration research on pest management with local governments, state agencies and private sector groups. Local governments and state agencies shall identify the pest-management issues that should receive priority for research.

The Action Team and WSU Cooperative Extension will establish a process for agencies and local governments to adopt practices that are proven effective through this program.

Priority will be given to research and promotion of pest-management practices that will ensure the greatest protection to water. The program shall coordinate with statewide needs for education and research on pest management in urban areas through participation of the signatory agencies (WSU Cooperative Extension, the Action Team, the Environmental Protection Agency (WSU), and Ecology, Health and Agriculture,) in the Urban Pesticide Initiative.

WSU Cooperative Extension shall provide resources to the local watershed management committees, the Ecology 1-800-RECYCLE hotline, and local governments managing hazardous waste.

Target Dates for PS-2: WSU Cooperative Extension shall hire a person to initiate the program when funding is available.